

Guidelines for Providing Public Comment to the Marine Life Protection Act North Coast Project

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative is designed as a transparent, science-based, stakeholder-driven process. As such, public comment is important to the success of the marine protected area (MPA) planning process. There are different methods available for public comment, both verbally and in writing.

Verbal Comments at Meetings

All meetings of the MLPA Initiative's marine protected area planning process will offer a minimum of one opportunity for public comment; actions items also have public comment associated with them. The time for public comment will be noticed in the agenda for each meeting:

- ***For the upcoming MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) meeting in Fortuna, a single public comment period will be split into two time blocks to give members of the north coast community an opportunity to share their views with the NCRSG:***
 - ***Time Slot #1:*** Monday, August 30 at approximately 4:30 p.m.
 - ***Time Slot #2:*** Tuesday, August 31 at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Members of the public are requested to speak at only one of the identified time slots.

- As an alternative to attending the meeting in Fortuna, the public is welcome to attend a public participation location to view the meeting and/or provide public comment:

C.V. Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Flynn Center
981 H Street, Multipurpose Room
Crescent City, CA 95531

Guidelines for general public comment at meetings include:

- Comment cards will be made available 90 minutes before each general public comment period and are requested to be submitted 15 minutes before the start of a public comment period. No new comment cards will be accepted once the comment period has begun. Speakers must be present and turn in their own cards (this applies to all individual speakers who wish to cede their time to other speakers).
- Comment cards will be counted and, at the discretion of staff or the chair, time allocated to each speaker will be based on the total available time and number of individuals wishing to speak.
- Speakers with a shared message or from the same organization are encouraged to combine speaking points. Speakers with ceded time will be placed at the front of the queue.
- Media presentations, such as slides and videos, are permitted by prior arrangement (contact Kelly at 707-832-4088 or kelly@strategicearth.com) and may be limited depending on time availability.
- An atmosphere of respect and consideration among the public is essential for a productive comment period. Personal attacks, verbal threats, hostile comments, clapping, jeering and the like will not be tolerated.

Written Comments

Written comments are accepted on an ongoing basis via email, standard mail or fax. All written comments are collated on a regular basis and distributed to the blue ribbon task force, regional stakeholder group, and staff, as well as the science advisory team if the comments are science related. Comments to the MLPA Initiative may be submitted to:

Email

MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Mail

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX

916.653.8102